聖痕のクェイサー

18

Champion
RED Comics
RED

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THE QWASER OF STIGMATA

18

HINOYUKI YOSHINO & KENETSU SATO

Champion RED Comics

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STORY

［前巻までのお話］女性の裏乳を吸うことで、[illegible]に乗ることができる能力者、その名もクェイサー。至聖女[illegible]件を契機に妻年の死闘に終止符を打つべくアトスはアデプトの[illegible]グノリアへの襲攻を開始。鉄のクェイサーのサーシャも新たな[illegible]女のミリアムと共に、この作戦に参加する。地下道からマグノリ[illegible]脱出しようとする山必僧とアスタロテは、裏切ったフールによって危機に陥るが、カーチャに遭遇、その危機を救われるが、12使徒のミルクが、新たに出現!!

聖痕のクェイサー 18

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※この作品はフィクションであり 実在の個人 団体等には一切関係ありません

Chapter 84: Collapse

Chapter 84: Collapse

SO YOU'RE SAYING...
...YOUR NAME WAS BLANC?
UM...
YOU KNOW THIS GIRL OR...?
I'M SAYING I KNEW A GIRL...
AND HER NAME WAS BLANC AS WELL
AND AS IT TURNS OUT...
...SHE WAS AN ATOMIS-STAGE HYDROGEN QWAISER TOO...

...THIS GIRL CAN'T BE THE BLANC I KNEW.
HOW-EVER
WELL THEN—
BE-CAUSE YOU SEE
THAT BLANC
IS LONG DEAD

...IT FELT LIKE THE ENTIRE WORLD...S BURNING.
WHEN THE FIRE THAT DEVOURED THE VILLA SPREAD TO THE SURROUNDING FOREST...

...WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT GUANG WAS MISSING...
...BIJOU AND THE OTHER INSTRUCTORS FORMED TEAMS...

...AND WENT INTO THE BURNING FOREST TO FIND HER.

THE FIRE RAGED FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS, AND DESTROYED MOST OF THE FOREST.
ON THE FOURTH DAY, THEY CAME BACK WITH HER

I SAW HER
AND I TOUCHED HER COLD CHEEK
brush

AND WHEN I WIPED HER FACE CLEAN, THE DEEP CUT SHE'D BEEN GIVEN ON THE DAY THE FIRE STARTED WAS UNHEALED YET PERFECTLY DRY
HUH?!
THEN
NOW THAT I'M SEEING IT FOR MYSELF
I UNDERSTAND SASHA AND TERESA'S SURPRISE
YOU
YOU'RE A REGEN

A MANU-FACTURED DAWN OF THE THEOSIS PROJECT
I CAN ONLY MARVEL AT HOW THEY ACTUALLY SLIPPED ONE OF YOU INTO THE MIDST OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS
SIGH
BUT I'M MILK AND I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MILK
BE QUIET!
YOU'RE STARTING TO ANNOY ME
IN FACT—
YOUR VERY PRESENCE OFFENDS ME!
THE DEAD SHOULD HAVE THE GRACE TO STAY DEAD—
KUK

KRRR
..SO I'LL PUT YOU BACK IN YOUR GRAVE!
MMMMM
SO A HYDROGEN USER SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE IT...3 EASILY...3 OTHER ATOMIS QWASERS.
THE AMOUNT OF HYDROGEN IN THE ATMOSPHERE IS ONLY 0.00005%...
WRANG

THE HUMIDITY...
...THIS PLACE IS NEVER EXPOSED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SO THE WATER IN HERE HAS NOWHERE TO GO.
?!
HOW...?
BLANC
THERE IS NO BLANC
POP
AND IT WAS GIVEN TO ME...
...BY ASTARTE-SAMA HERSELF.
THERE'S ONLY MILK.
THAT'S MY REAL NAME.
FOR THAT, I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...
...TO PROTECT HER.
TOUM
SSSSS

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
YOU'RE NOT MY FRIEND ANY-MORE, "ROUGE"
YOU'RE JUST ANO-THER LIAR
SO
POF
POP
BAF
MAMA!!
KRRR
SSSSSSSSSSSSS
KATJA-SAMA!
...
PURE HYDROGEN
SHE'S DECOM-POSED THE WATER MOLECULES TO FREE THE HYDROGEN FROM THE OXYGEN

SSS
CRACKLE
POP
BAM
KZZ
KHAAH...!
BOOM
THE FIFTH POWER ST...GE...
splash
splatter
drip
drop

FWOOSH
WATER ?!
IS SHE REALLY GOING TO ?
RRRSSSSHH
SSHH
ASTARTE SAMA
I MADE A PROMISE
AND I KEEP MY PROMISES
I WILL PROTECT YOU
...!!

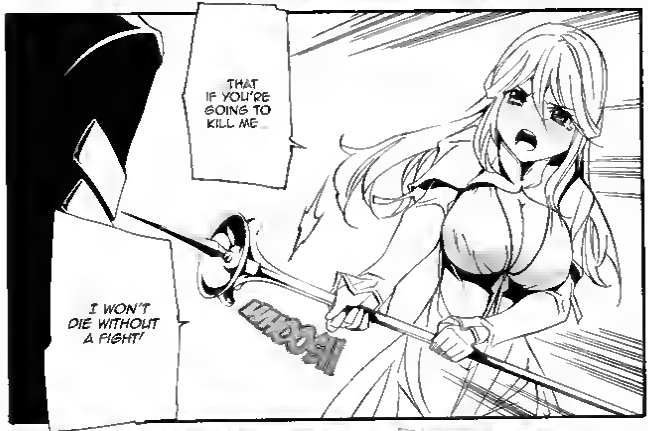
ASTARTE-CHAN!
I'M SORRY.

TWITCH
I'M SORRY...
HM
KRK
KRONK
HEY!
HEY, YOU BIG BASTARD WHAT—
ASTARTE...
...SAMA...
KRANNNG

I'M COMING...
THUMP
BA-THUD
BA-THUD
AND THIS WOULD BE ALL OF THE HIGH MAGIAS LEFT IN MAGNOLIA.
WELL, THEN!
CONSIDER THEM YOUR JUST REWARD.
THEY ARE YOURS TO DISPOSE OF.

...GIRLS?
DID YOU HEAR THAT
laff
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!
stroke
click
IT IS A SHAME...
HOW-EVER, THERE ARE SO MANY OF YOU!
BUT I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MURDER YOU...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WHO WOULD YOU RECOM-MEND I START WITH?
YOU KNOW, NOR-MALLY I'D ASK YOU TO ENJOY IN MO-DERA-TION...
BUT IN THIS CASE I GUESS YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT AS LONG AS NOT A SINGLE ONE OF THEM IS LEFT ALIVE WHEN YOU'RE DONE
LEAVE THEM TO ME
Sleep

rise
STOP THIS!
I'M THE SENIOR HIGH MARIA HERE
SO WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING START WITH ME!
grab
JUST KNOW...


THAT IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME...
I WON'T DIE WITHOUT A FIGHT!
SHOOK

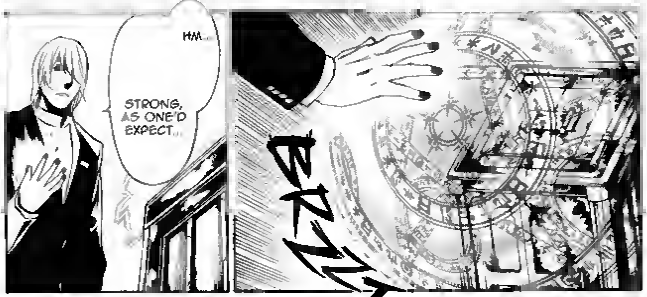
...YOU'RE GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY...

GOOD!
VERY GOOD!
BY DECLARING YOURSELF MY OPPONENT...

tremble

MY NINPO, "SHADOW MIRAGE"!
EH?!
stop
rustle
...TO REVEAL TO YOU...
...MY SECRET ART!
grab
grip
KYAA!!
RRIP

NO WONDER THIS PLACE FELL SO QUICKLY
NOW
HAH
I NEVER REALIZED JUST HOW ENTHUSIASTIC METEORA PERSONNEL ARE ABOUT THEIR WORK


HM...
STRONG, AS ONE'D EXPECT...
BRZZT

REEEE
FRRRR
SO MAYBE IT'LL TAKE A LITTLE WHILE...
TO DISPEL THIS LOCK...

MMF...?
MMPFHH!
SUCH WONDERFUL MEAT ON THIS ONE

...AND THESE BREASTS ARE TRULY MAGNIFICENT...
EVEN BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH TO BE WORTHY OF THE LORD REBORN!
INDEED THEY FEEL CLOSE TO OVERFLOWING!
IF WE OPEN ONE UP, WHAT WILL SPILL OUT, I WONDER?
BLOOD OR SOMA?
nudge
I THINK...
...WE SHOULD FIND OUT.
prick
BOOM
YOU!

STOP!
YOU LET THAT GIRL GO
WHOOOSH
OR I'LL USE MY ATOMIS POWER
AND MAKE YOU SUCK THE MARROW FROM YOUR OWN BONES

SLAM
WHAT...?
LET'S JUST WAIT AND SEE!
snap
WILL YOU NOW, OXYGEN GIRL?
OH?
METEORA NINPO: "FIRE BIND"!
KKSSSHH
SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER UP YOUR SLEEVE
FIRE IS STILL FIRE
REEEE
IT'LL SIMPLY KEEP BURNING UNTIL MY JUTSU IS EXHAUSTED
THIS FIRE
DOES NOT NEED FUEL TO BURN
ROOM

lean
FURU?!
step
OH, I'D SAY HE STILL HAS A CARD OR TWO LEFT TO PLAY...
NOW I UNDERSTAND...
ALL THIS TIME I KNEW...
I KNEW SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT
MAGNOLIA WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO INVADE
...BUT JUST LIKE THAT ATHOS WAS INSIDE OUR WALLS
IT WAS YOU
YOU LED THEM TO THE SECRET PASSAGE!
slump

YOU BETRAYED US!
YOU, FURU!
GRIT
NO, I JUST WON!
heh
YOU...
OH, AND BY THE WAY...
SSSSHH
KUCHISA AOI-KUN...
I REALLY THOUGHT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD'VE NOTICED BY NOW
?!

THE INSIDE OF THIS NARROW CATHEDRAL IS SEALED AND ON FIRE
SO IF YOU GATHER OXYGEN IN HERE NOW
WELL WHO KNOWS WHAT LL HAPPEN?
CRACKLE
SO THAT'S THEIR PLAN
cough
gas
kha
IF I DRAW IN OXYGEN NOW IT LL JUST MAKE THE FIRE BURN SO MUCH HOTTER
AND IN TURN MAKE IT CONSUME EVEN MORE OF THE AIR IN HERE

I DO BELIEVE SOME OF US ARE HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING EVEN NOW
cough
EVERYONE!
I'LL SHIFT MORE OF THE OXYGEN IN HERE OVER TO YOU!
AOI-SAMA
YOU MUSTN'T WORRY ABOUT US!
PLEASE DON'T OD YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT!
cough
DON'T!

OUR LIVES
ALL OF US
WE ONLY LIVE TO SERVE HIM
breeze
SSSHH
HOW EASILY YOU WERE BEATEN!
SSST
SPLAT

NINPO:
"SPIDER'S PRISON"!
gloop
I MUST SAY YOU SEEM QUITE HARMLESS NOW
AOI-KUN
I WILL KILL YOU TRAITOR
OH, THOSE SOUR GRAPES TASTE SWEET INDEED!
WHAP

CRACK
WHAM
SMACK
STRUGGLE!
DON'T DISAPPOINT ME NOW!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
GO ON, RESIST!
OH DEAR
YES, I BETRAYED YOU...
BUT THERE WAS FAR MORE GOING ON THAN JUST THAT
COULDN'T YOU TELL?
OR...
MAYBE YOU JUST CHOSE TO IGNORE IT?
Ahah
WHAT... ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF JUST A MOMENT AGO
AS SOON AS ATHOS SHOWED UP

YOU... WHAT ARE YOU
NO, THE TRUTH IS THIS PLACE WAS LOST LONG BEFORE THE FIGHTING EVEN BEGAN.
BUT WHY?
DO YOU REALLY THINK ONE SINGLE TRAITOR WOULD HAVE SUCH A DEVASTATING EFFECT?
...MAGNOLIA FELL IN JUST A MATTER OF MOMENTS.
BY HIM.
WHAT AM I SAYING?
I'M SAYING ALL OF YOU WHO ARE STILL HERE HAVE BEEN ABANDONED
RRR
...HAS FORSAKEN YOU!
!!
THE GOLDEN TYRANT, LEADER OF THE ADEPTS...
RRRMP

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHY?!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?!
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!
WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING FOR THE THEOTOKOS OF TSARITSYN CHASING THE MYSTERY IT HOLDS
AS THE SITUATION CHANGED, HE MADE A CHANGE OF PLANS... AND OF WOMEN.
IT'S ONLY REASONABLE.

...YOU AND THE OTHER APOS-TLES...
WERE ONLY EVER TOLD THAT THE MYSTERY WAS THERE
YOU WERE NEVER TOLD EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU, ME, ALL OF US...
WHEN WE JOINED, WE SWORE TO FOL-LOW HIM.
WE'D EVEN DIE IF HE TOLD US TO THAT'S HOW DEEP OUR LOYALTY RAN
SO WHEN HE HAD US ALL CHASING THE ICON, DON'T YOU AGREE THAT WE
YOU'RE SAYING WE SHOULD'VE QUESTIONED HIM? ASKED HIM WHY?!
WELL, YES...!
THE PIECE ON THE BOARD SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK WHY IT'S BEING MOVED.
BUT UN-FORTU-NATELY...
YOU GUYS AREN'T HIS PIECES ANY-MORE

NO YOU'RE LYING
BECAUSE THE RULES OF THE GAME HAVE CHANGED
AND NOW IT'S BEING PLAYED ON A DIFFERENT BOARD ALTOGETHER!
YOU'VE BEEN SACRIFICED
SWEPT OFF THE TABLE!

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR ALL THIS TIME
DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT MYSTERY THE ICON HOLDS?
BUT AREN'T YOU EVEN THE LEAST BIT CURIOUS?
YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE A WORD I SAY...

SKREEE
I WANT TO KNOW
...BEFORE HE THREW YOU AWAY WITHOUT A SECOND GLANCE?

tug
SO LET'S HEAR IT!
WHAT IS THE MYSTERY OF THE THEOTOKOS OF TSARITSYN?!
WHOOM

TRANSLATION, CLEANING AND TYPESETTING: FINEMANS
WWW.JAIMEFR.TK
SCANS FROM RAW-HUNTERS.COM

Chapter 85: The David of Resurrection

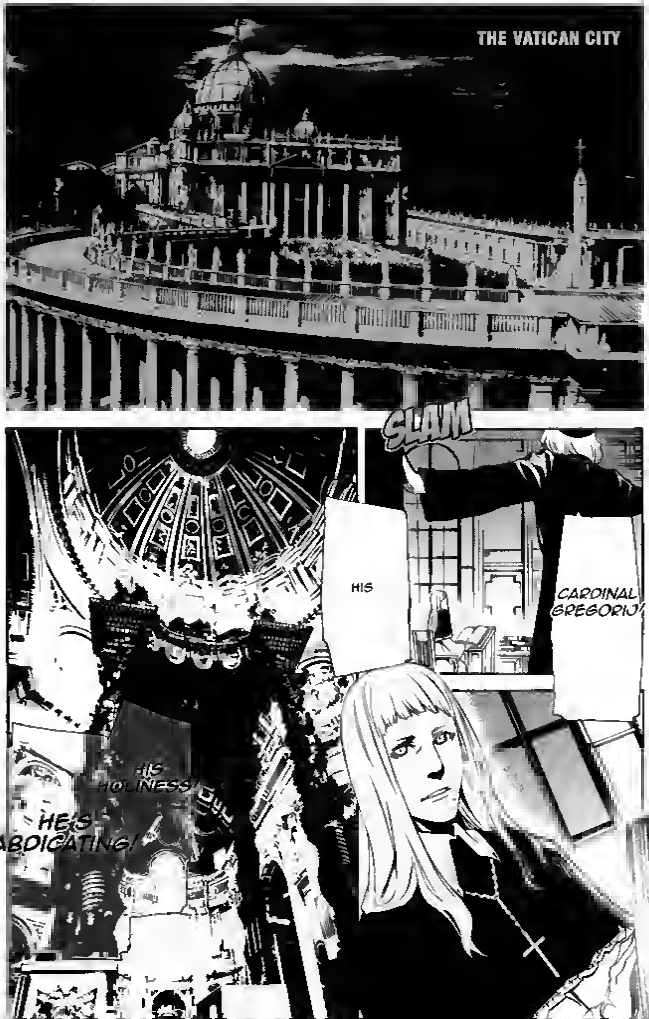
WELL LOOK WHO IT IS!
"SASHA THE MARTYR" IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE!
CRACKLE

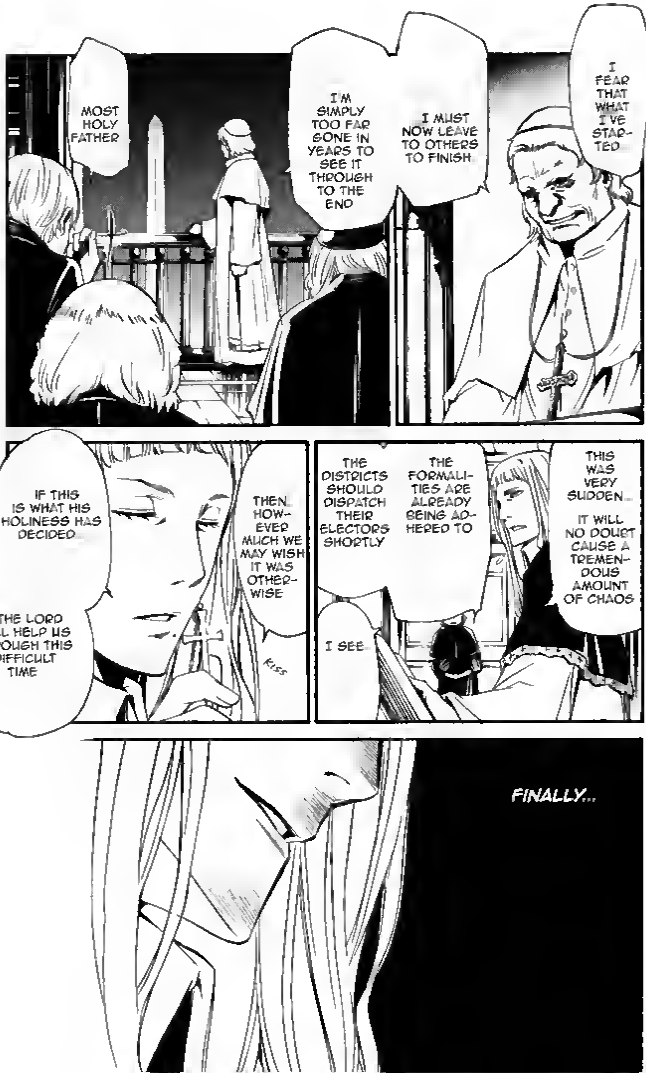
THAT'S FINE YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US
AFTER ALL WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE NOW!
WE'RE WHAT?!
SO
YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF THE THEOTOKOS TOO?
FURU

Leap
HMPH/
I SEE...
THIS MAN YOU KNOW AS FURU IS OUR ALLY
HE MUST NOT BE HARMED
I AM OF METEORITE SPECIAL OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT.
I AM CALLED HAYAOUSA
IT IS SO.
...IS WHAT CAUSED THIS DISGUSTING SCENE?
AND YOUR ALLIANCE
TOF
IS THAT SO?
SHE... SHE WAS TAKEN TO A SAFE PLACE WITH ASTEROTE-SAMA...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS?
THERE SHOULD BE A JAPANESE GIRL NAMED YAMANOBE TOMO HERE.
Kneel

HAH...
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, SHE'S ALREADY MET HER END AT THE HANDS OF METEORA'S EXTERMINATION SQUAD.
IT'S TRUE.
rustle
ALL RIGHT
THANK YOU
grab
JUST WHAT I SAID.
WHEN YOU INTERRUPTED ME EARLIER...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
GIVING COMFORT TO A POOR GIRL WHO'S BEEN LEFT ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD...
MY WHAT A HEARTWARMING GESTURE!

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO EXPLAIN WHY THESE PEOPLE'VE BEEN SO SUDDENLY ABANDONED
AND ABOVE ALL EXACTLY WHAT THE MYSTERY OF THE THEOTOKOS OF TSARITSYN ACTUALLY IS
BUT FIRST
THE FINAL PURPOSE OF THE ADEPTS WAS ALWAYS TO BE SACRIFICED
...SO THAT THE GOLDEN TYRANT MAY JOIN HANDS WITH ATHOS!
AND BY DOING SO THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH THE TWO MAJOR BRANCHES THAT WERE FORMED AFTER THE GREAT SCHISM THAT SHATTERED CHRISTINANITY A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
TO BE REUNITED!
...ARE ABOUT


THE VATICAN CITY
SLAM!
HIS
CARDINAL GREGORIJ!
HIS HOLINESS
HE'S ABDICATING!


I FEAR THAT WHAT I'VE START-ED...
I MUST NOW LEAVE TO OTHERS TO FINISH
I'M SIMPLY TOO FAR GONE IN YEARS TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END
MOST HOLY FATHER
THIS WAS VERY SUDDEN...
IT WILL NO DOUBT CAUSE A TREMEN-DOUS AMOUNT OF CHAOS
THE FORMALI-TIES ARE ALREADY BEING AD-HERED TO
THE DISTRICTS SHOULD DISPATCH THEIR ELECTORS SHORTLY
I SEE...
THEN... HOW-EVER MUCH WE MAY WISH IT WAS OTHER-WISE
IF THIS IS WHAT HIS HOLINESS HAS DECIDED...
KISS
...THE LORD WILL HELP US THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME
FINALLY...

...THE PAPAL CONCLAVE CAN BEGIN!

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?!
IF THE ADEPTS DISAPPEAR, HOW WOULD THAT HEAL THE SCHISM?!
HOW COULD IT?!
TO SOLVE THAT RIDDLE, YOU'LL NEED A LITTLE IMAGINATION
FIRST... LET'S SAY THIS DAY IS A TOTAL VICTORY FOR ATHOS
WHO'D BENEFIT FROM THAT THE MOST?

SMIRNOFF
WITHOUT A DOUBT
SINCE HE INSISTED ON THIS OFFENSIVE AND INVOLVED HIMSELF IN EVERY DETAIL HE'D BE KNOWN AS THE BISHOP THAT FINALLY CRUSHED ATHOS'S ANCIENT AND MOST BITTER ENEMIES
WITH THAT TO HIS NAME HIS WORD IN THE COUNCIL WOULD BECOME UNDENIABLE
NOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A MAN WITH THAT KIND OF SWAY
STARTED TO PUSH FOR AN END TO THE GREAT SCHISM BETWEEN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH AND THE CATHOLICS?
wiggle
shudder
AND WHAT'S MORE
I KNOW FOR A FACT THE CATHOLICS ARE ABOUT TO BECOME VERY RECEPTIVE TO SUCH A SUGGESTION
I'M SURE YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE ALL OF THAT IS INEVITABLE...
...BUT IF THAT'S A REAL PLAN, IT'S JUST WAY TOO BIG TO WORK
HELL, WHO EVEN DREAMS UP A SCHEME LIKE THIS?!
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A GUESS?
GRIT
THE THEOSIS PROJECT...
BINGO!

WHAT ROLE DOES THAT PLAY IN ALL OF THIS?
AND THE TSARITSYN?

I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU SASHA-KUN
BUT BEFORE I CAN DO THAT I NEED YOU TO PROVE TO ME THAT WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE.
YOU WHAT?!

HEY!
THEY'RE MINE!
YOU GAVE THEM TO ME!
PLEASE, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL NOTICE IF JUST ONE OF THEM IS MISSING!
YOU HEARD ME
I WANT YOU TO PICK A HIGH MARIA AND THEN I WANT YOU TO KILL HER
RIGHT HERE WHERE WE ALL CAN SEE
shuffle

ATHOS'S RULES ARE CLEAR
HARMING OR KILLING CIVILIANS OR NON-COMBATANTS IS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN
BREAK THE RULES AND YOU'LL BE EXECUTED
HA HA HA HA HA
WE'RE IN A WAR-ZONE BOY!
THIS WILL BE CONSIDERED JUST ANOTHER SMALL MISTAKE THAT LED TO TRAGEDY UNFORTUNATE BUT NOTHING MORE!
AND BESIDES YOUR LITTLE RULES DO NOT APPLY TO ME I HAVE BEEN TASKED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE ARCHBISHOP SMIRNOFF HIMSELF
TO KILL EVERY LAST PERSON I ENCOUNTER THAT IS EVEN REMOTELY CONNECTED TO THE ADEPTS!
THE WAY THINGS LOOK RIGHT NOW...
SMIRNOFF AND THE THEOSIS PROJECT WILL BE THE CLEAR WINNERS IN ALL OF THIS
SO IF I WERE TOLD TO PICK A SIDE I'D GO WITH THEM

BUT ALL THAT ASIDE
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE HAD A PROBLEM FIGHTING THE ADEPTS BEFORE...
...SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE HESITATING NOW
tremble
slide
IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO DO THIS...
SHINN
Smirk
creak

SASHAAA...!
KNOCK
...!!
clack
clatter

...
YOU CAN GO NOW.
AND WHEN YOU GET TO THE OUTSIDE, LOOK FOR SISTER MIRIAM.
SHE'LL PROTECT YOU.
SASHA
YOU... BASTARD
MY PREY..!
COME ON!

YOU...
I HAVEN'T BETRAYED ANYONE
YOU'RE ATHOS!
AND YET YOU'RE WILLING TO BETRAY HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP SMIRNOFF?!
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU ON THE OTHER HAND, HIDE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF YOU UNTIL NOW, AND WHAT LITTLE I'VE SEEN, YOU NEVER DO ANYTHING IN THE OPEN
WHEN I ENTER A FIGHT, I ALWAYS MAKE IT CLEAR WHO AND WHAT I AM
IT'S JUST THAT UNLIKE YOU, I FOLLOW THE RULES
SLAP
THAT'S MY POINT
THERE'S NO REASON WHY A SMALL FRY LIKE YOURSELF WOULD EVER KNOW OF
MY VERY EXISTENCE IS A SECRET!

IF EVERY-THING ABOUT YOU IS A SECRET...
YOU'D HAVE EVERY REASON TO LIE TO ME, RIGHT?
AND THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO FURU
YOU BETRAYED YOUR OWN PEOPLE SIMPLY BECAUSE IT WAS CONVENIENT FOR YOU
NOW YOU SAY WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE, BUT HOW COULD I TRUST YOU?
SO THE WAY I SEE IT...
...I'VE GOT FURU, A LIAR AND A TRAITOR WHO WANTS ME TO SLAUGHTER HELPLESS INNOCENT GIRLS TO PROVE I'M HIS ALLY
...AND A SADISTIC PSYCHOPATH WHO SAYS HE'S WITH ATHOS, BUT WHOM I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF
YOU FUCKERS WANT ME TO PICK A SIDE?
I ALREADY HAVE

IF YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT RAISING YOUR HAND TO ME...
SMIRNOFF WILL NOT BE SILENT!
!!!
YOU BASTARD...!
MAYBE HE'LL JUST CONSIDER IT ANOTHER OF THOSE LITTLE MISTAKES YOU MENTIONED?
OH, I DON'T KNOW
SSSHOK
VERY WELL...
GRRRHH!

WHOOSH
WAIT, SASHA
LEAVE THIS ONE TO ME
KRRK
NEITHER? OPTION SOUNDS ALL THAT INVITING
FINE BY ME
HOW ABOUT YOU, FURU?
YOU WANT TO FIGHT, OR DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT THE TSARITSYN?
SCH

RRRRRRRRRRR
BOOM
FINALLY
KRSSSHH

!!
?!
FURU!
STOP!
RUSH
TOK
TOK
FOOOM
YOU'RE WIDE OPEN!
FOOL!
WHOOSH

DON'T RUSH
I WANT TO DO THIS NICE AND SLOW
HMPH!
SUCH AN INSOLENT MOUTH
TOK
FURU!
TOF TOF
LEAP
TOP

EEEE
SPANG
?!
IT'S HIGH TIME YOU STOPPED PESTERING ME...
FWIP
AND I GUESS THIS PLACE IS AS GOOD AS ANY
REEEE
SRAAAA
YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING WHAT KIND OF ELEMENTAL CIRCUIT THIS IS.
I'M PLEASED TO TELL YOU IT'S ONE OF MY OWN HYBRID DESIGNS, INCORPORATING JAPANESE SHIKIGAMI.
I CALL IT "THE SERVANTS."

RAAAAA
SLASH
WHOOK
SLICE
TCH!
YOU THOUGHT THOSE THINGS WOULD STOP ME?!
NOT REALLY, NO...
...BUT THIS JUST MIGHT.
ching

REEEEE
GAAH!
GRUNB
THE TRAP YOU JUST STUMBLED INTO RELEASED MY OTHER HYBRID CREATION THE "SUCCUBUS"
AAAH!
REEEE
AS YOU KNOW
WHEN YOU SUCK LIFE OUT OF A MARIA SHE'S OVERCOME BY AN ALMOST ECSTATIC PLEASURE
SO I HAVE TO SAY I'M CURIOUS
WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING ON THE OTHER END?
WHICH WILL DRAIN YOU OF LIFE, STARTING WITH ALL THE SOMA YOU'VE GOT IN YOU
CHOMP
WHUH

DONE SO SOON?
WELL, MAYBE THAT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME
OH?
THUD
WELL, THEN.
NOW I CAN FINALLY GET BACK TO WORK...
...AND YOU'LL SEE.
REEEEE
KHH...
THAT CAN'T BE!
A HIGH, ANCIENT CIRCUIT?!
SO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
THIS IS THE MYSTERY THAT WAS HIDDEN IN THE HEART OF THE TSARITSYN

The David of Resurrection!
EEEE

KRAK
CLANG
TANG
AH...
!!
SSSHH

REALLY?!
I AM IMPRESSED...!

THAT WAS IT
HAAH—
I'M ALL OUT—
Slump

HELLO?
I'LL HAVE TO FIGHT HIM HERE, TAKE HIM DOWN SOME-- HOW...
IF ONLY I...
NO...
I CAN'T LEAVE FURU WITH THAT CIRCUIT
SO NOW WHAT?
FIND MIRUMI?
AAH!
ARE YOU AWAKE?
HOW AW-FUL...!
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU!?

rustle
AND I FELT I HAD TO GIVE IT BACK IF I COULD
I FOUND THIS IN ONE OF ITS POCKETS
YOUR COAT...
WHY ?
THE GIRLS IN THIS PICTURE...
AREN'T THEY IMPORTANT TO YOU?
ARE YOU...
...SERIOUS?
YOU CAME BACK FOR THIS?!
YES
YES THEY'RE FAMILY

I've never had a family of my own
But I think the people who live here who I grew up with are like one
flop
And you helped them
You protected my family
I want to repay you
I can't fight for you
But I can help you in turn
So please
I want to give you my soma

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
FELICIA
FELICIA, THAT'S A GOOD NAME.
smooch
HAH...!

MAFUYU...
TOMO...
IT'S STRANGE
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE BOTH FAR AWAY YOU STILL FIND WAYS TO HELP ME

JUST HOW FAR COULD HE HAVE GONE IN THAT STATE?!
clatter
KLAK
GOOD GRIEF
NOT HERE EITHER
SNAP
REEEE
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HEL—
...?!

HERE I AM FURU!
RRRR

...as you tremble on your knees!

TRANSLATION, CLEANING AND TYPESETTING FINISHING
WWW.MWABEE.TK
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FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE, THE CHURCH REWARDED HIM WITH A PAINTING, A CERTAIN ICON...
AFTER MUCH HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING, PRINCE VLADIMIR FINALLY CONVERTED THE LAND OF YELLOW WATER, "SARYSU", WHICH BECAME "TSARITSYN", TO CHRISTIANITY.
...THAT CAME TO BE KNOWN SIMPLY AS THE "THEOTOKOS OF TSARITSYN".

Chapter 86: The Truth About the Tsaritsyn

AND THEN AS NOW, IT WAS SHROUDED IN MYSTERIES
IN FACT...
...THE "DAVID OF RESURRECTION" WAS FAR FROM THE ONLY ONE.
THE "STAURITASYN" IS SAID TO BE ONE OF THE VERY FIRST ICONS
LEGEND HAS IT THAT IT WAS CRAFTED BY THE APOSTLE LUKE HIMSELF
...AND IN IT HE LAID THE KEYS TO ALL THE GREAT SECRETS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. WHERE THEY'VE BEEN RESTING FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS

HOW ROMANTIC!
DON'T YOU AGREE "SASHA THE MARTYR"?
SPARE ME
JUST STICK TO THE FACTS
THAT'S ALL I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
Hmph!
HOW UNREFINED!
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT
FRRR
I CAN BE LIKE THAT TOO!
YOU WANT ME TO KEEP TALKING?
FWAP
FSSH
MAKE ME!
REEEE

HAAH!
SO HOW DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

FOOM
I'M ONLY ASKING BECAUSE I'M NO LONGER TIED UP AND I'VE GOT ALL THE OXYGEN IN THE WORLD...
SO YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING.
HAH!
YOUR CONFIDENCE IS TO MY LIKING...
...SO COME, BY ALL MEANS!

AFTER ALL I DO NOT MIND BEING HERE WITH YOU.
FURU IS THE ONE WITH THE HIGHER PURPOSE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
AH, ALL THIS TALKING...

WE'RE NOT HERE TO TRADE WORDS, ARE WE?!
NO, WE'RE HERE TO FIGHT!
SO PAY ATTENTION!
SHIFT
TELL ME WHAT FURU IS DOING HERE!
HEGH!

AS EXPECTED! I'M IN HER HEAD NOW!
KEPT IN THE RACK OF THIS CATHEDRAL EXTRACTED FROM THE HOLY ICON
IS A VERY SPECIAL CIRCUIT
ONE SO PRECIOUS, IT IS KEPT IN A CAGE...
BUT FURU PROMISES HE CAN BREAK THE LOCK
NO. /
HE KNOWS?!
HE KNOWS ABOUT THE "DAVID OF RESURRECTION"?!
AND—
LEAP
NOW!
TOO EASY!
SSS

WHOOSH
SHARED
HIS ARMOR...
IT DEFLECTED MY ATTACK...?
SSSSS...
FSSSHH!

HA HA HA HA HA
AAH... HAH!
KARIA
THIS ARMOR IS A COMPOSITE OF CERAMICS AND ENHANCED METALS!
YOUR VACUUM BLADE AND OXIDIZING ATTACKS HAVE NO EFFECT!
TRULY I HAD SUCH PLANS FOR MY SWEET MARIAS BE-FORE THEY WERE STOLEN FROM ME

SO NOW I WILL ENTERTAIN MYSELF WITH YOU!
THUD
THUNK
THUD
SLICE

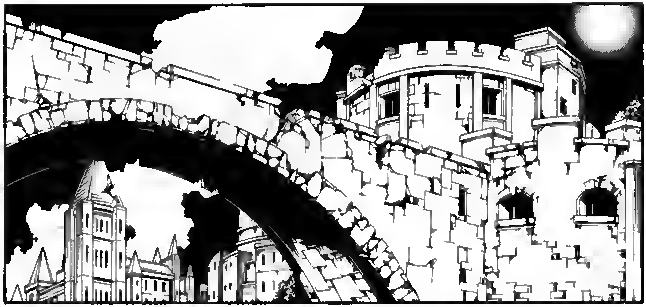
HAAAH!
!!
KRRRRRRRRR
CLINK
WRAP
THUD
YANK
OOF
CLATTER

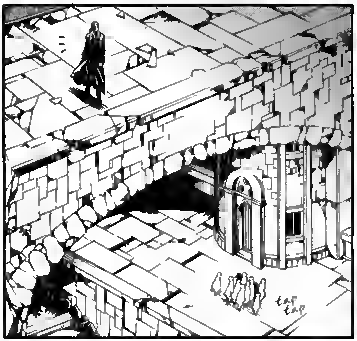
THIS IS IT... FUFU
CLICK
CREAK
AND DO NOT THINK...
...EVEN FOR A SECOND...
...THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ALL THE SHIT YOU'VE DONE.

GRIP
NO MORE DEALS
SLAM
THE ONLY DEAL IS THIS:
YOU DO AS I SAY AND I WON'T KILL YOU
I UNDER-STAND!
I UNDER-STAND!
I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING JUST PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!
GULP
YOU DON'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF PRIDE, DO YOU?
YOU CHANGE SIDES SO FAST, I THINK EVEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU STAND.
...

...
SLIT THAT'S MY CHARM...!
Leer
WHAM
TRY ANYTHING...
...ANYTHING...
...AND I'LL SLIT YOUR THROAT.
THUNK

WHAT'S STILL INSIDE THAT ICON ISN'T HIDDEN SO MUCH AS WAITING
NOW START TALKING!
TELL ME EVERYTHING ABOUT THE "TSARITSYN"!
HRISTOS...
INRI...OF JESUS CHRIST!
INSIDE THE "TSARITSYN" IS A PERFECT COPY OF THE VERY BREATH OF LIFE, THE PNEUMA...
...!!




...
cat-like

FURU SHOULD'VE FINISHED HIS BUSINESS HERE BY NOW.
IT'S TIME HE SHOWED UP.

I SEE YOUR HAND IS STEADY AS A ROCK...
EVEN AS YOU PREPARE TO BURN THOSE FRIGHTENED GIRLS ALIVE
ssss

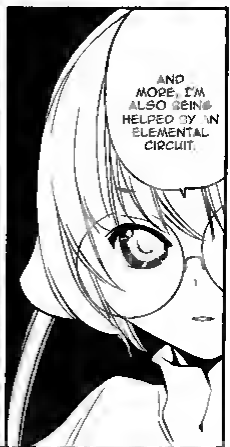
rustle
SOMETHING'S WRONG

THE HIGH MARIAS ?

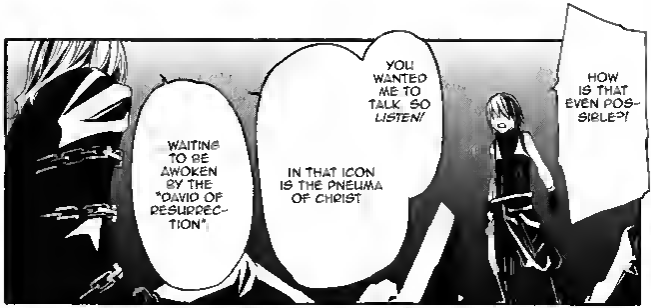
BUT I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT SHINICHIRO
THOSE HAMMERS...
THE "BANISHERS OF THE WICKED".
COULD IT BE...
ASIA...?
IT'S ME
BUT THESE DAYS, I'M USUALLY JUST CALLED "LITTLE MAAM".
SO THIS IS A POSSESSION, THEN?
OR A HOLY NAIL?

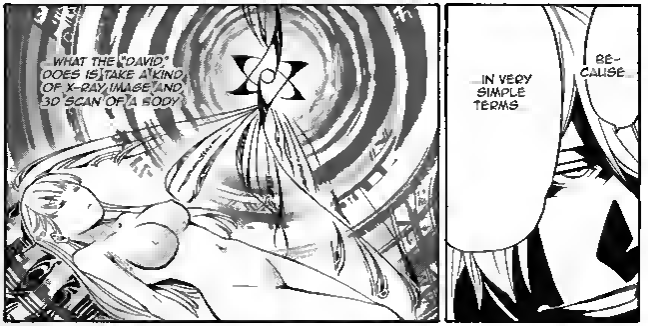
NEITHER
IT'S A TALENT THIS CHILD HAS
NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY SHE [illegible]
SHE CAN LET HER MIND RESONATE WITH THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF SOMEONE ELSE
WE CALL IT "MIDI[illegible]".

THE OLD YOU, SHINICHIRO...
WOULD'VE NEVER EVEN DREAMED OF BURNING THOSE POOR GIRLS
SO I GUESS IT'S TRUE


AND MORE, I'M ALSO BEING HELPED BY AN ELEMENTAL CIRCUIT.

TRUE...?
WHAT I'VE HEARD
THAT WHEN SOMEONE'S REGENERATED FROM THEIR SALVAGED PNEUMA
ASPECTS OF HIS PERSONALITY, LIKE HIS TASTES AND PREFERENCES, OFTEN CHANGE RANDOMLY DURING THE PROCESS
AND YOU'RE PROOF OF THAT, AREN'T YOU?
YOU WERE BROUGHT BACK BY THE "DAVID"
THE PNEUMA OF HRISTOS?!


HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!
YOU WANTED ME TO TALK. SO LISTEN!
IN THAT ICON IS THE PNEUMA OF CHRIST
WAITING TO BE AWOKEN BY THE "DAVID OF RESURRECTION".

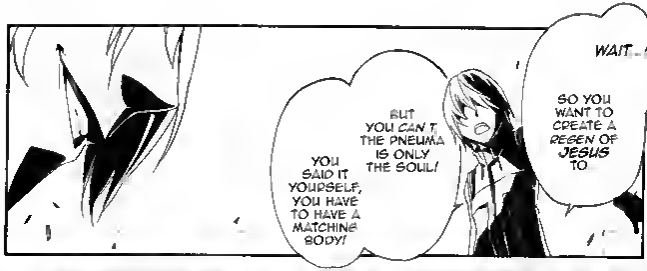

BECAUSE
IN VERY SIMPLE TERMS
WHAT THE "DAVID" DOES IS TAKE A KIND OF X-RAY IMAGE AND 3D SCAN OF A BODY

IT READS NOT ONLY THE BODY'S SHAPE, BUT ALL OF ITS THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES AS WELL!
IT READS EVERYTHING THAT MAKES A LIVING PERSON

AND BURNS THE INFORMATION ONTO A TABLET OF PHILOSOPHER'S STONE
THE "DAVID" CAN BE USED TO WRITE A STORED SOUL INTO A MATCHING BODY, BASICALLY REPLICATING THE RESURRECTION, THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF CHRIST
IT'S A PROCESS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED BY HERMES TRISMEGISTUS AS AN ANSWER TO MANKIND'S UNENDING DESIRE FOR ETERNAL LIFE
IT IS A FORBIDDEN SECRET THAT CAN BRING ANYONE BACK TO LIFE

EXACTLY!
YOU WILL BRING ABOUT THE SECOND COMING...
...AND THEN THE LAST JUDGMENT WILL BEGIN!
NOW, WHEN YOU LET THE "DAVID" WRITE THE PNEUMA OF CHRIST INTO A BODY AND BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE, WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN?
THAT'S THE TRUE POWER OF THE "DAVID OF RESURRECTION".
...AND THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE "THEOTOKOS OF TSARITSYN"!

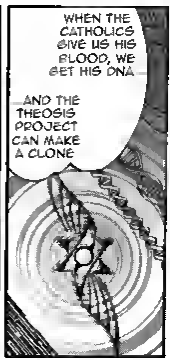
ΙΧΘΥΣ

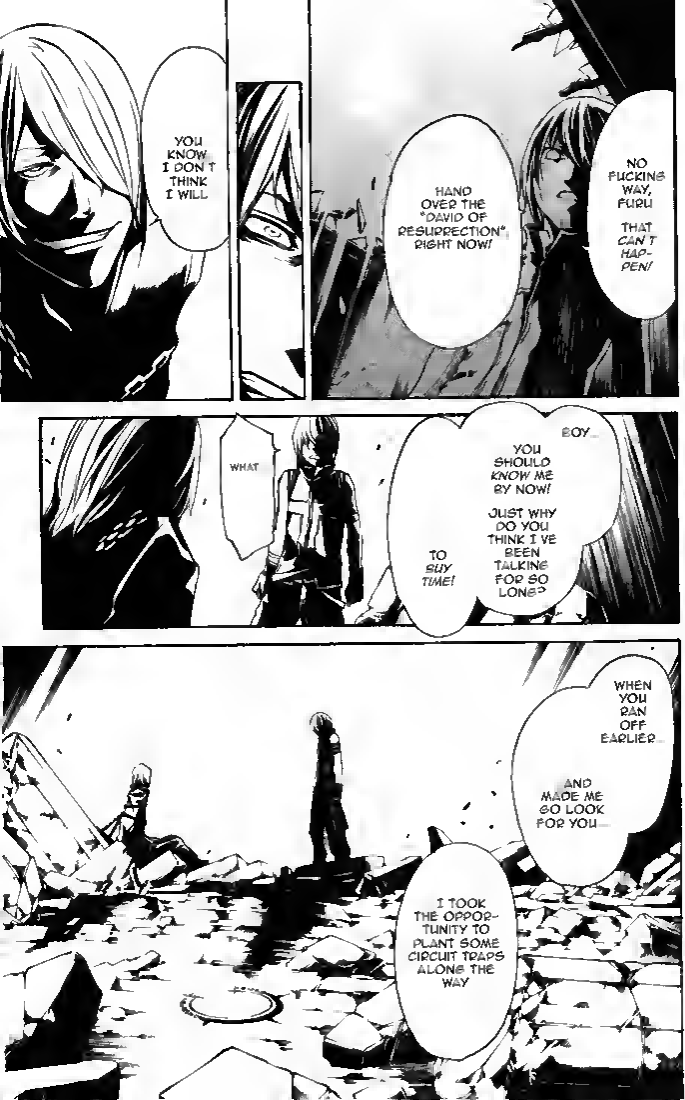

WAIT...!
SO YOU WANT TO CREATE A REGEN OF JESUS TO
BUT YOU CAN'T THE PNEUMA IS ONLY THE SOUL!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, YOU HAVE TO HAVE A MATCHING BODY!

THE SHROUD THAT WRAPPED THE BODY OF CHRIST
AS WELL AS THE SPEAR OF LONGINUS THAT PIERCED HIS SIDE AS HE DIED ON THE CROSS
ARE MARKED BY HIS BLOOD
AND AS ALL THE FAITHFUL KNOW, BOTH OF THOSE RELICS ARE KEPT IN THE VATICAN CITY

AND WITH PLENTY OF CONVENIENT LITTLE CHANGES, NO DOUBT!
BUT IN YOUR CAPE...

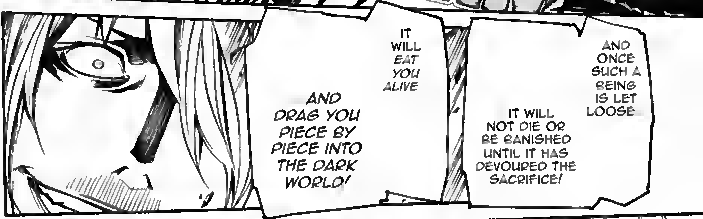
SO WHEN THE BODY IS GROWN, THE "DAVID" WILL WRITE HIS SOUL INTO IT
HIS PNEUMA IS ALREADY INSIDE THE "TSARITSYN"
...AND CHRIST WILL BE AMONG US AGAIN!


WHEN THE CATHOLICS GIVE US HIS BLOOD, WE GET HIS DNA
...AND THE THEOSIS PROJECT CAN MAKE A CLONE


NO FUCKING WAY, FURU! THAT CAN'T HAP-PEN!
HAND OVER THE "DAVID OF RESURRECTION" RIGHT NOW!
YOU KNOW I DON'T THINK I WILL
BOY... YOU SHOULD KNOW ME BY NOW! JUST WHY DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN TALKING FOR SO LONG? TO BUY TIME!
WHAT
WHEN YOU RAN OFF EARLIER... AND MADE ME GO LOOK FOR YOU...
I TOOK THE OPPOR-TUNITY TO PLANT SOME CIRCUIT TRAPS ALONG THE WAY

AND NOW...
THE MOON IS HIGH
AND THE TIME HAS COME!
YOUR MOONLIGHT SHADOW HAS TOUCHED MY CIRCUIT!
NOW YOU'RE MARKED WITH THE CROWN OF SACRIFICE
REEE
...AND THE GATES OF HELL...
...ARE OPENED!
REEEEEE
BOOM

THE DARK MOONLIGHT ARTS REQUIRE INTRICATE BLENDS OF NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE ASPECTS BOUND IN A SINGLE HYBRID CIRCUIT.
...AND SUMMONS THE MOST DREADFUL OF GHOULS.


AND ONCE SUCH A BEING IS LET LOOSE
IT WILL NOT DIE OR BE BANISHED UNTIL IT HAS DEVOURED THE SACRIFICE!
IT WILL EAT YOU ALIVE
AND DRAG YOU PIECE BY PIECE INTO THE DARK WORLD!

KRRRRK

FFT
IS THAT SO?
SHINK

THEN I DON'T ENVY YOU, FUFU
WH...T...?
KRSHH
YOU THINK I DIDN'T NOTICE YOUR CIRCUIT TEAR, OR HOW YOU KEPT CHECKING MY SHADOW FROM THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE?
TINK
BLINK
TINKLE

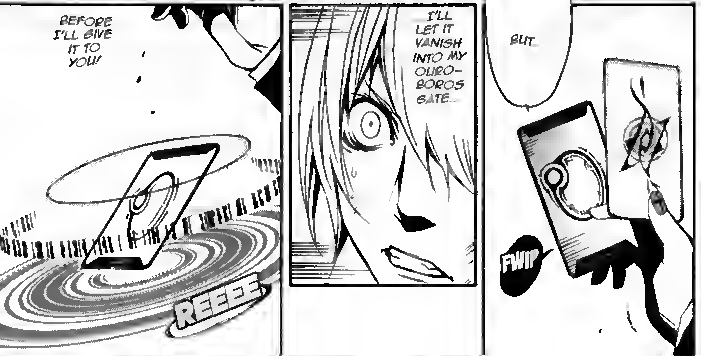
CLINK
SO I STUCK SOME IRON TO A SHARD OF GLASS
AND MADE IT A MIRROR
CLATTER
AND WHEN YOU WEREN'T LOOKING, I REFLECTED THE LIGHT SO THAT *YOUR* SHADOW FELL ON THE CIRCUIT, NOT MINE.
YOU WERE SO BLINDED BY GREED AND TRIUMPH...
YOU NEVER NOTICED A THING.

slither
ooze
HA HA HA HA HA!!
HAAAH!!
OH SASHA!
WHY DIDN'T I SEE IT COMING?!
AFTER ALL, HAVEN'T YOU BEATEN EVERY SINGLE ADEPT APOSTLE YOU'VE BEEN UP AGAINST?!
OH WELL
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S MY TURN NOW

AND I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO IT
HHHH
AS THEY SAY, IT'S THE FATE OF THE TRAITOR TO BE BETRAYED BY HIS OWN SCHEME
YOU PLAYED ME LIKE A MASTER SASHA
CHOMP
RRRIP
SPAT
CRACK

FURU!
I'LL HELP YOU!
GIVE ME THE "DAVID" AND I'LL HELP YOU!
RIP
TEAR
SPATTER
CRACK
SLURP
CHEW

FLIP
HERE...
UUH!
HERE IT IS, SASHA...
THUMP
SPLAT


BEFORE I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!
I'LL LET IT VANISH INTO MY OUROBOROS GATE...
BUT...
FWIP
REEEE

NEVEEERRR!!
HA HA HA!
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE IT, SASHA!
NEVER!

FURU!
DON'T—

MMMM

TEAR
GLOMP
REMEMBER
THE GHOUL WON'T STOP
UNTIL THE SACRIFICE
UH!
HAS BEEN DEVOURED
SO, SASHA
YOU HAVE TO LET IT EAT ME ALIVE
CHEW
CHOMK
SPATTER
THE GOLD QWASER!
THE GOLDEN TYRANT!
HOW IS HE CONNECTED TO THE THEOSIS PROJECT?!
FUCK...!

slither
CHEW
CRACK
TALK TO ME, FURU!
WHERE IS HE NOW?!
DON'T WORRY
YOU'RE ALWAYS ON HIS MIND
SCARED
HE'LL LEAVE YOU
CRUNCH
AL
WAYS
SNIP

SSSSSS

AAAAAA

THAT'S..!!
SO FUDU WAS DEFEATED.
flap

INDEED
AND NOW I HOLD ALL OUR FATES IN MY HAND

TRANSLATION, CLEANING AND TYPESETTING: FINEMANS
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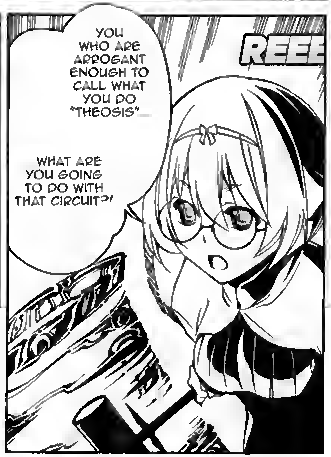
Chapter 87: Fool's Paradise



ARE YOU GOING TO RISK MY BURNING THAT GIRL'S BODY?
ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT ME IN THAT STATE?
WELL, THERE YOU GO
EEEE
I DO
BUT UNTIL RECENTLY, I ONLY THOUGHT IT WAS A LEGEND

slump
...BE-CAUSE...
I SAID WE CALL HER ABILITY "MIDIA"...
...BUT "YORI-MASHI"* MIGHT BE MORE FITTING.
EEEEEE!
*YORIMASHI: SHINTO TERM FOR PERSON OPEN FOR POSSESSION BY GODS OR SPIRITS.
WHAMM
...IF THERE'S A NEED
SHE CAN CHANNEL OTHER PEOPLE AT WILL!
WHAM

IF YOU WANT TO THROW AROUND YOUR LITTLE FIRE-CRACKERS...
...YOU'LL NEED TIME TO AIM AND CONCENTRATE.
...EMILY...!
BUT NOW YOU'RE FACING ME, SHINICHIRO...
...AND I WON'T LET YOU HAVE A SINGLE SECOND TO SPARE!
NOW LET'S SETTLE WHAT WE STARTED IN KOSOVO A DECADE AGO!

Chapter 07: Fool's Paradise

HAAH!
BOOM
BOOM
UNEXPECTED, IS IT NOT?
NOT ONLY IS THIS ARMOR TOUGH ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND YOUR BLADES, IT IS ALSO RESISTANT TO SHOCK, AND WILL NOT MELT EVEN IN HEAT THAT REACHES ABOVE A THOUSAND DEGREES!
NOT EVEN AQUA REGIA CAN TOUCH IT!
KRAK
FSSHH

SWIP
KUH!
WHOOSH
WHOOM
HAH!
YES THAT'S IT! SQUIRM AND WRITHE!
MAKE YOUR BREASTS DANCE FOR ME!
WHOOSH
I CANNOT WAIT TO HAVE THEM IN MY HANDS ONCE YOU'RE DEAD!
SFFT

RIP
SHRED
AH, SUCH A LOVELY SIGHT
!!
flap
flutter
AND YOUR WOUNDED PRIDE MAKES IT ALL THE SWEETER
YOU MAY BE A FIERCE WARRIOR OF THE ADEPTS
BUT IN YOUR HEART YOU ARE A MAIDEN STILL!
ISN'T IT FUNNY OXYGEN GIRL
FOR YOU TO WORRY SO ABOUT YOUR MODESTY EVEN AT THIS LATE HOUR?

MAGNOLIA HAS FALLEN
THE GARDENS YOU GREW AND SHELTERED ARE BURNING. THE ASHES SCATTERED TO THE WINDS
...AND YOU YOURSELF HAVE BEEN CAST ASIDE LIKE GARBAGE AND LEFT TO DIE!

ADMIT WHAT YOU KNOW IN YOUR HEART TO BE TRUE
ADMIT THAT ALL THE THINGS YOU WERE LED TO BELIEVE ARE NOTHING BUT LIES AND ILLUSIONS
Kneel
LIES
NO.
AND LET THE WEIGHT OF IT ALL BREAK YOU
GRIP
GRIP
HAH...!
HA HA

HAHAHAHAHA
SO YOU REALLY DID GO MAD?
BROKEN?
MAD?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
BUT DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF AND THINK YOU HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT!
I'VE BEEN BROKEN FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
I'VE BEEN MAD SINCE THE DAY I MURDERED MY BROTHER WITH MY OWN HANDS!
THIS WIND...!
WHOOSH

COME, YOU COWARD WHO HIDE IN YOUR ARMOR...
...AND FACE ME, WHO WEAR NOTHING BUT MADNESS AND PRIDE!
SOME-HOW
I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE WOMAN I WAS
MAYBE IT WAS SEEING SASHA AGAIN AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME THAT RE-MINDED ME
RUSH
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT NAKED PREY!
PRATTLING BITCH!
CRACKLE

RRAAA
DON'T THEY SMELL NICE?
HERE DOUKAN
HRR...
RR...

WHABOOM
EMILY
YOU FIGHT EVEN BETTER THAN I REMEMBERED
BUT THAT BODY
AREN'T YOU AFRAID YOU'RE WEARING THE GIRL OUT?
NOT AT ALL
THIS CHILD HAS ENDURED ME MANY TIMES
thud
clatter

THUNK
YOU'RE LATE, SASHA.
FURU WAS BEATEN.
YOUR WORK, I TAKE IT?
flutter
HE DROPPED THE "DAVID" INTO A TRANSFER GATE BEFORE HE DIED.
BUT IT WAS A SMALL ONE...
...SO I FIGURED IT LED TO SOME PLACE CLOSE BY.

CORRECT.
OR SOMEONE
SLICE
GIVE IT TO ME!

RUMMMBLE
FAR TOO WILD
YOU'RE LETTING ANGER LEAD YOUR ATTACK
ANGER?
YEAH, MAYBE I DO
FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER...
I'VE BEEN FIGHTING THE APOSTLES OF THE ADEPTS
AND WHILE SOME OF THEM WERE HUMAN GARBAGE
THEY WERE ALL STRONG AND FEARSOME OPPONENTS
EACH OF THEM COULD WELL HAVE BEATEN ME...
...OR WE COULD'VE CUT EACH OTHER DOWN

BUT NOW THEY'RE ALL GONE AND ALL THIS IS FINISHED
WHY?!
THE GOLDEN TYRANT...
WHY DID HE ABANDON THE ADEPTS?!
KROOM
SNAP
BE-CAUSE HE HAS A DREAM...
...THAT HE MUST FULFILL!
AND TO DO THAT...
...HE WILL SACRIFICE WHATEVER IT C..LLS FOR!

KROOM
CUT
...AND HE LEFT MAGNOLIA TO BURN.
ALL TO GET HIS DREAM ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY.
SO YES, HE TURNED HIS BACK ON THE ADEPTS...
SST
SHFFT
FSST
SSTT

THAT PIECE OF SHIT!
AS IF THAT MAKES IT RIGHT!
TOF
HE LEFT HIS OWN HOME TO INVADERS
...AND LEFT THE GIRLS WHO SERVED HIM TO BE BUTCHERED BY SADISTIC MADMEN!
HE GAVE ATHOS EVERY-THING, ALL FOR THE SAKE OF SOME DREAM!
EVEN HIS PRIDE!

PRECISELY
KRAK
...!!
BUT LET'S STOP TALKING
AND SETTLE THIS
flutter
SASHA LISTEN TO ME
THIS HAMMER
IT CAN FORCE CIRCUITS TO ACTIVATE AND GO HAY-WIRE

IF YOU CAN GET CLOSE TO HIM
WE'LL HAVE A SHOT AT DESTROYING THE "DAVID".
JUST MAKE ME AN OPENING AND I'LL MOVE IN
BIG MA'AM...?!
SLOW ON THE UPTAKE AS USUAL SASHA...
NOW, LET'S DO THIS
slither
FRESH BLOOD
BECOME CRIMSON BLADES!
EEEEE
Kyyy

KILL HIM!
AND CRIMSON BLADES...
HN /
SHARRING

KHH!
HE DEFLECTED ALL OF THEM?!
FAREWELL, IRON BOY
WHAT...?!
BOOOM

HERZ!
HRAAH!
YOU...
...BETRAYED US?
RAAAH!

WHOOM
FOOM
I DID, DOUK'N.
REEE
GUH

AA
AH
A
CRACKLE
...AND I PROTECT...
...OF THE ADEPTS...
I AM A WARRIOR...
...ASTARTE-SAMA!
GRAB
NOW!
HAH?!

SSSS
REEEEE
THE "DAVID"
..!!
SHUNK

TOF TOF TOF
HAAAH!
REEEE

NO!
leap
...
TCH!
splash

IRON...
I ASK OF YOU.
ASTAFTE-SAMA...
LET HER BE HAPPY.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
THEN I AM AT EASE.
GO.
HEH.

WE'RE PULLING OUT.
SEND A CHOPPER TO PICK US UP.
CLICK
...
A BREEZE

MAD BITCH
FOR HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON RESISTING ME?
ONLY FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO KILL YOU
BUT WHY FIGHT WHEN YOU'VE ALREADY LOST?!
LOOK AROUND YOU!
THE ADEPTS ARE GONE!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT!

...AS I ALWAYS KNEW IT WOULD
ITS ILLUSION OF EVER-LASTING PEACE IS FADING...
THE LONG DREAM OF MAGNOLIA IS ENDING.
BUT UNLIKE HIM
I WILL NEVER BETRAY THE VISION I SERVED FOR SO LONG
THIS PLACE MAY BURN, BUT AS LONG AS I HAVE PRIDE LEFT IN MY MAD HEART
THE DREAM OF IT WILL LIVE ON INSIDE ME!
MAGNOLIA MAY HAVE BEEN A FOOL'S PARADISE
BUT I WILL NEVER LEAVE!

OXYGEN!
COME TO ME NOW!
WE ARE, KUCHIBA AOI, FOREVER AN APOSTLE OF THE ADEPTS!

HMPH!
SUCH A TIRESOME DISPLAY
HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED BY NOW?
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO THAT WILL GET PAST MY ARMOR!
ARMOR?!
I DON'T GIVE A FUCK ABOUT YOUR ARMOR!
YOU...
WHOOM
WHAT?!
WHOOSH

THE CINDERS LITERALLY EXPLODE AND BURN WITH TEMPERATURE OF MORE THAN 2000°C
NO WHEN I LET IT ENVELOP YOU, I TURN ITS OXYGEN LEVEL UP TO ALMOST 100%
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
I WON'T
I CAN'T!
2000°C = APPROX 3600°F
BUT YOUR INSIDES WILL BOIL AND BURN
YOUR PRECIOUS SHELL MAY REMAIN UNHARMED
THE FIRES HAVE TURNED OUR GARDENS INTO ASH AND SMOLDERING CINDERS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THE...
THE HEAT...!
FWOOSH
DUST EASY FOR MY TWISTER TO CARRY

THIS IS FINE, YUU
I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS
WE WERE BORN TO BE APOSTLES OF THE ADEPTS, YOU AND I
AND NOW I'LL DIE AS THE LAST ONE ALONE IN THE FIRE

AVAVAVAVA
COME ON!
GRIP

TRANSLATION, CLEANING AND TYPESETTING FINEMANS
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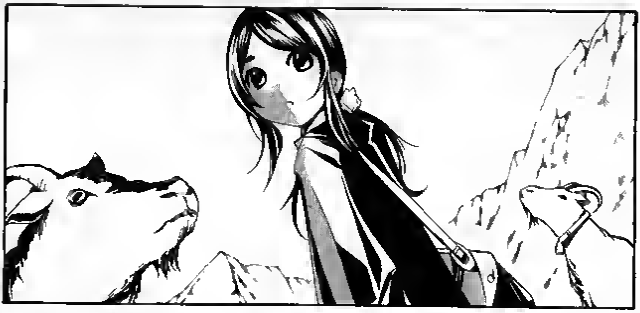
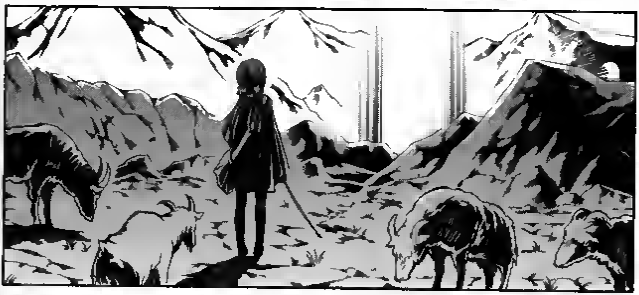
Chapter 88: The Magdalene's Russian Jaunt

The Caucasus Mountains.

Seven hours after the fall of Magnolia.





Chapter 88: The Magdalene's Russian Jaunt

HERE YOU GO, GIO!
'S WHAT I OWE YOU!
TWO MILK CANS' WORTH!
HSYUGH!
OH—
I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
WELL, THE RITUAL'S COMIN' UP, DON'T YOU KNOW
EH?
THIS IS TOO MUCH!
SO I'M JUST FOLLOWIN' THE VILLAGE LAW HERE. SHARIN' THE GAINS!
ALL IN THANKS TO THE COMIN' HERO AN' ALL THAT!

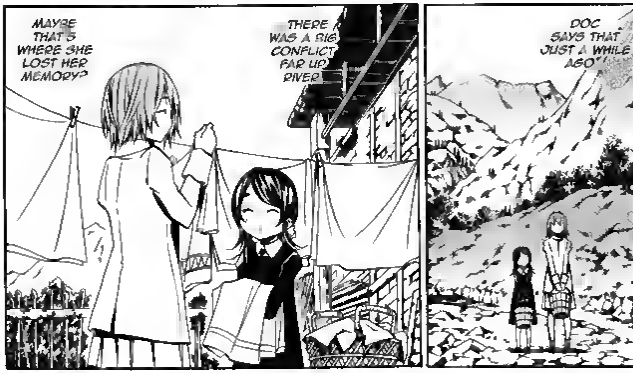
creak
YES!
SEE YOU UNCLE!
"MARIA"?
THAT THE GIRL YOU FOUND DOWN BY THE RIVER?
OH, I CAN'T, IT'S FOR MARIA!
HEY, GIDI!
YOU WANNA SELL ME THAT CHEESE TOO?
NO
IT'S NOT A RUMOR
NO IDEA
ALL I HEARD IS SHE'S REAL PRETTY
BUT YOU KNOW HOW RUMORS ARE
"MARIA"
SHE'S AT THE DOC'S PLACE, RIGHT?
sparkle
AND THAT GIRL LOOKS JUST LIKE AN ANGEL!
FACT IS
I'VE JUST BEEN TO THE DOC'S

I TOLD YOU TO REST!
HAVE YOU GONE SO SENILE YOU FORGOT THE MEANING OF THE WORD?!
OH I KNOW!
BUT I CAN'T JUST LIE AROUND DOING NOTHING!
REALLY, GRANDFATHER YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THE DOCTOR!
knock
AS SHE TOLD YOU BEFORE
ALL THIS IS USELESS IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF IT PROPERLY!
I HEAR YOU
MARIA-CHAN!
swish
leer

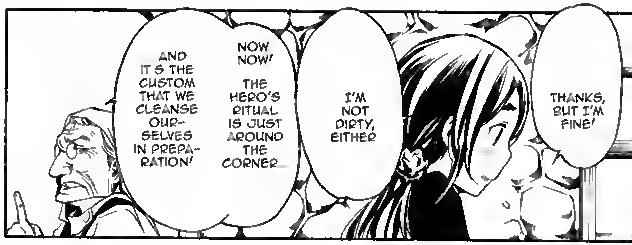
KYAA!
flip
blush
DON'T DO THAT TO MARIA!
SLAM

HE HE HE
SORRY SORRY...
IT WAS JUST TOO GOOD TO PASS UP!
GRR!
EIDI...
EIDI
I'M OKAY, REALLY!
wrap
MARIA !
hug
THIS IS THE ANGEL I FOUND BY THE RIVER.
WHEN SHE WOKE UP, SHE COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL

SHE COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER HER OWN NAME.
SO I CALLED HER "MARIA".


MAYBE THAT'S WHERE SHE LOST HER MEMORY?
THERE WAS A BIG CONFLICT FAR UP RIVER.
DOC SAYS THAT JUST A WHILE AGO.

BATH'S READY, HOP IN TOGETHER SO YOU'LL WARM UP!
YOU'VE WORKED ENOUGH FOR TODAY, GIRLS!


THANKS, BUT I'M FINE!
I'M NOT DIRTY, EITHER
NOW NOW! THE HERO'S RITUAL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER...
AND IT'S THE CUSTOM THAT WE CLEANSE OUR-SELVES IN PREPA-RATION!

glare
AS A MATTER OF FACT IT'S THE VILLAGE LAW
SO BE WISE NOW, GIRL. YOU DON'T WANT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR POOR PARENTS TO HAPPEN TO YOU, DO YOU?

JUST KEEP THIS ON...
AND I'LL HELP YOU WASH YOUR FACE AND HAIR

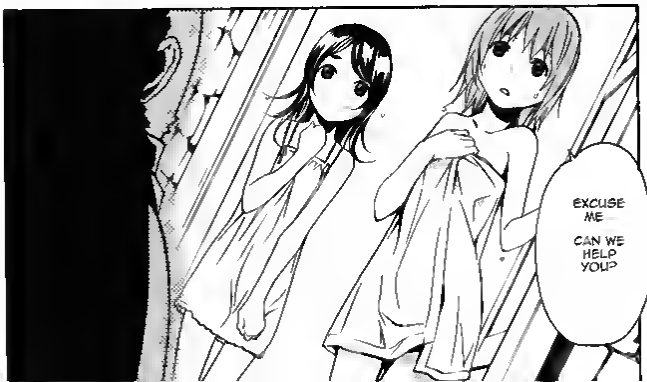
LET'S GO, MIGI!
IT'LL BE FINE!
tug

I'M SORRY
IT S JUST THAT BEFORE SHE DIED
MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME TO NEVER UNDRESS IF I'M NOT ALONE
SPLASH
brush
DON T WORRY ABOUT IT!

SO YOU STILL CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
NO, NOT A THING BUT
I'M NOT SURE...
I KEEP GETTING THESE IMAGES...
...OF SOMETHING SO FAR ABOVE ME, SO NOBLE AND UNATTAINABLE THAT I WANT TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING I HAVE AND OFFER MYSELF TO IT COMPLETELY.
THESE IMAGES OF SOMEONE IN REDDISH LIGHT, LIKE COPPER...
I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE

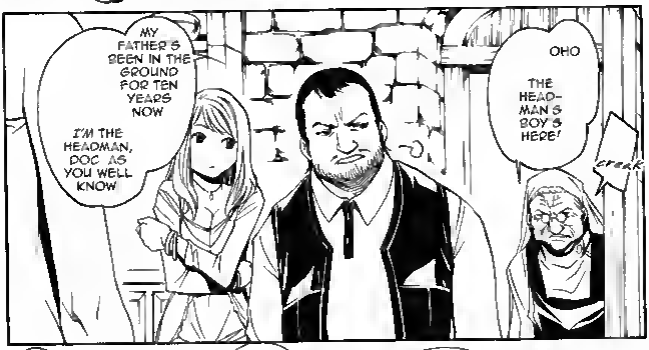
MARIA?
WHAT IS IT?
OH
NOTHING
NEVER MIND
BUT GIDI
WHAT'S THIS "HERO'S RITUAL" DOC WAS TALKING ABOUT?

THUMP THUMP
HEY, GRANNY! ARE YOU HOME?!
THAT'S—

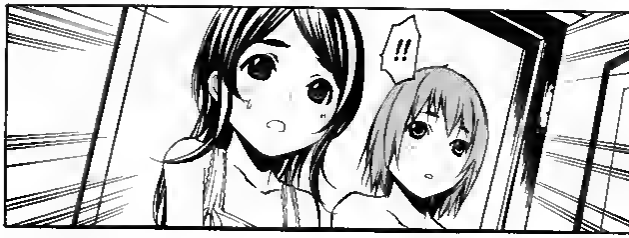

EXCUSE ME
CAN WE HELP YOU?

HUH?
!!
THE VILLAGE HEADMAN?
HEAD-MAN?
OH, UH
WELL NOW, ISN'T THIS QUITE—
HEY!
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE STARING AT?!
pinch
OWW!
HMM
SO YOU'RE IT, THEN?
YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO WAS WASHED ASHORE
PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT ANGELS AND ALL KINDS OF THINGS SO NATURALLY WE HAD TO COME AND SEE FOR OURSELVES
step
BUT YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY JUST ANOTHER NORMAL SHABBY GIRL-CHILD

IF YOU'D AT LEAST BEEN A NORMAL, SHABBY BOY
YOU'D BE OF SOME USE
AT LEAST THEN THE HERO'S RITUAL WOULD'VE GONE SMOOTHLY THIS YEAR
AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SHOP FOR ONE
HUH...?


OHO
THE HEAD-MAN'S BOY'S HERE!
CYRAK
MY FATHER'S BEEN IN THE GROUND FOR TEN YEARS NOW
I'M THE HEADMAN, DOC AS YOU WELL KNOW

THINGS ARE BEING SORTED OUT!
I NEED YOU TO BE THERE
TOMORROW A TRADER'LL BRING US A HERO
BUT THE WAY IT LOOKS
I SEE


!!

— The next day —
THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND IN THIS VILLAGE

THERE WAS A DRAGON THAT LIVED IN ONE OF THE RUINS BY THE RIVER
EVERY NIGHT THE DRAGON CAME OUT AND ATTACKED THE VILLAGE
UNTIL THE VILLAGERS MADE A DEAL WITH THE DRAGON

AND THE DRAGON WON'T ATTACK THE VILLAGE ANYMORE
THAT ONCE EVERY FOUR YEARS THEY'D SEND A BOY THAT'S 10 TO 12 YEARS OLD INTO THE RUINS

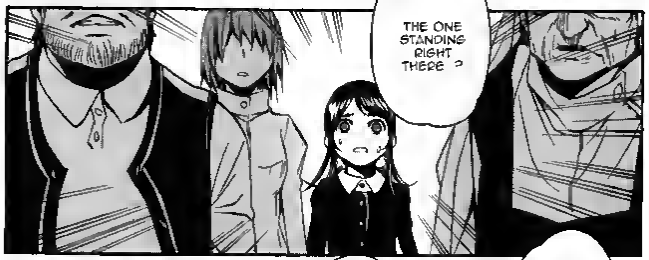
SO THIS "HERO'S RITUAL"
IS A BIG FEAST WHERE A BOY GETS A SWORD AND A SHIELD AND HE'S SENT OFF INTO THE RUINS
BUT I'VE HEARD
THAT NONE OF THE BOYS THAT'S GONE THERE HAVE COME BACK
THAT CAN'T BE!
I MEAN, THERE'S NO DRAGON!
...IS THERE?

WELL, THE GROWN-UPS SEEM TO THINK THERE IS ONE
SO NOW WHEN THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE CHILDREN, THEY PLAN IT...
...SO THE CHILD WON'T BE OF THE RIGHT AGE WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THE NEXT RITUAL
THERE ARE NO BOYS BETWEEN 10 AND 12 IN THIS VILLAGE
I THOUGHT THAT MEANT THE RITUAL WOULD BE CANCELLED BUT
LET'S GET GOING GIRLS
I HEAR THE TRADER'S COMING

OF COURSE!
I'VE BROUGHT A CHILD FOR YOUR VILLAGE AS REQUESTED.
WELL THEN
SHOW US RIGHT AWAY
step
AND HERE SHE IS!

WHAT THE—
WHAT?!
WE ORDERED A BOY!
A BOY?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THAT
ARE YOU SURE?
YES IT HAS TO BE A BOY!
SO BEAUTIFUL...
AND SO FRIGHTENING...
ALL AT THE SAME TIME...
AND I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER...
WHAT'S WRONG?
I UNDERSTAND YOU WANTED A BOY AND IT'S RATHER OBVIOUS I'M NOT ONE...
YES BUT YOU SEE—

HOW-EVER...
...WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE BOY YOU ALREADY HAVE?


THE ONE STANDING RIGHT THERE?

YOU MAY HAVE DECEIVED ALL THE OTHERS...
...BUT NOT ME
I CAN ALWAYS TELL

GIDI!
STOP!
RUSH
THUD
GRAB
YOU WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE THE RITUAL
BY PRETENDING TO BE A GIRL!
COWARD!
HA!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
RRRIP

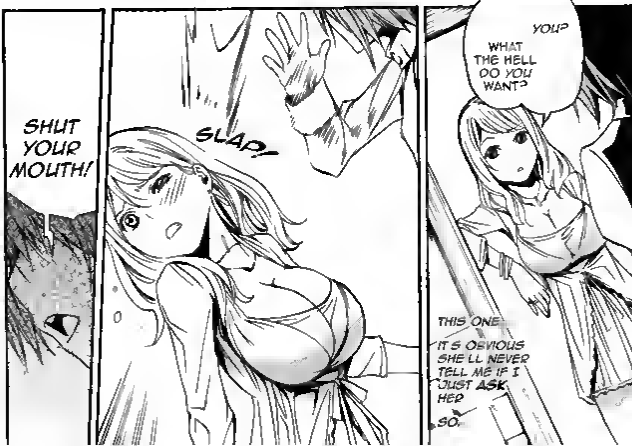
WE HAVE A HERO!
BEGIN THE RITUAL!
GATHER THE VILLAGE!
LIGHT THE TORCHES, PREPARE A SHIELD AND A SWORD!
OPEN THE DRAGON GATE!
GIDI!

I...
THERE'S A BIG CELEBRATION IN THE VILLAGE AREN'T YOU GOING?
GOOD-NESS... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M SORRY IF THIS SEEMS STRANGE
BUT I REALLY FEEL I SHOULD ASK YOU THIS!
PLEASE!
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK I SHOULD DO?!

PLEASE TELL ME!
TELL ME, AND I'LL DO IT!
VERY WELL
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT
I COMMAND YOU TO DO
WHAT YOUR HEART TELLS YOU IS RIGHT

I WILL!

AND ONLY THE HEADMAN'S FAMILY KNOWS ALL THE PATHS
TOK TOK
THE DOC SAID THE RUINS ARE LIKE A MAZE...


SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
SLAP!
YOU!?
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?
THIS ONE...
IT'S OBVIOUS SHE'LL NEVER TELL ME IF I JUST ASK. HEH
SO.

WHAT ?
THE ONLY THINGS I WANT TO HEAR OUT OF YOU... ARE ANSWERS TO MY QUES-TIONS!
THUD
H-HAAH..?!
R-RIP
smooch

A
A
THAT GUY YOU'RE WITH
rub
NO WAY HE GIVES YOU EVERY-THING YOU NEED
WHAT...
HHAH...!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO HEAVEN
AND IN RETURN
YOU'LL ANSWER ALL OF MY QUESTIONS
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!
SUP
YES, I—
YES!
—AAAAH!

?!
RRRMMMMMM
CLATTER

MOTHER...
I DID A BAD THING.
I LIED TO EVERYONE...
...JUST BECAUSE I'M AFRAID TO DIE...
THIS MUST BE MY PUNISHMENT.

WAIT...
OR
THE DR-
-GON...!
IT'S REAL?!
AND IT'S HUGE!
ISN'T THIS A CROCO-DILE?!
BUT, WHAT'S IT DOING HERE...?
CLACK

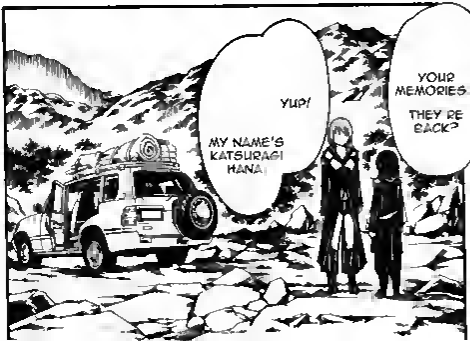
BUT IT'S SEEN ME...
SO I HAVE TO TRY...
I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING!
AAA!
THINK
ERR
THUD
I DID IT
I DID IT !
DOES THIS MEAN...
AM I A MAN NOW...?
OR...
YES YOU ARE

YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF, EID!
MORE THAN ANY OF THOSE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE
MARIA?!
I'VE GOT THIS.
DON'T WORRY
BE CAREFUL, IT'S DANGEROUS!

I REMEMBER NOW, KATJA-SAMA.
I AM A MARIA MARKED BY SIN...
...IN THE WAY OF MARY MAGDALENE.
AND I'M YOURS.

AND THAT'S HOW HE KILLED THE DRA-GON
AND SAVED ME
SO NOW
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THE HERO'S RITUAL ANYMORE RIGHT?

BECAUSE YOU HAVE YOUR HERO NOW
AND IT'S ONLY THANKS TO HIM THAT I'M STILL HERE

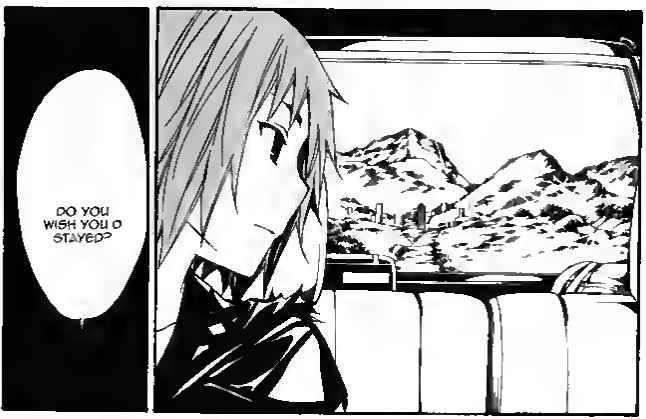

YOUR MEMORIES... THEY'RE BACK?
YUP!
MY NAME'S KATSURAGI HANA!

!!

I DON'T MIND!
GIO!
I'M NOT THE ANGEL YOU TOOK ME FOR
FAR FROM IT
DO YOU HAVE TO GO?
PLEASE, HANA
TAKE ME WITH YOU!
I WANT TO BECOME A MAN THAT CAN PROTECT YOU!
EVEN THE DEVIL WAS AN ANGEL
...AND EVEN EVIL PEOPLE HAVE BECOME SAINTS!
AND SHE'S THE ONLY ONE IN MY LIFE
BUT MY HEART ALREADY BELONGS TO SOME-ONE
YOU'RE SO SWEET, GIO!

...SO I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
BUT I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS
THE FIRST AND ONLY KISS
I'LL EVER GIVE A BOY

I KNOW I'LL MEET YOU AGAIN SOME DAY
FARE-WELL, HANA!
FARE-WELL!


DO YOU WISH YOU'D STAYED?

BY THEN...
I KNEW WHERE I HAD TO BE...
click
...
NO.
I RE-MEMBERED YOU...
...AND THAT WAS THAT.
I GUESS IT COULDN'T BE HELPED...
BUT I STILL SPITE YOU FOR BEING AWAY FROM ME FOR SO LONG.
AND HANA...
YOU'D BETTER BE GRATEFUL!
OF COURSE!

EPILOGUE

all roads lead to Rome

omnēs viae Rōmam dūcunt

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